

4-26-1996

## Straw Hat Players programs, 1996 (1996)

Moorhead State University

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The Straw Hat Players Alumni Show  
Presenting the award-winning poem

# The Country I Remember

by David Mason

Starring Jan Maxwell and Jerry verDorn

Friday, April 26  
7:30 p.m. / Hansen Theatre  
Moorhead State University

# The Country I Remember

## A Different Kind of Love Story

### Between Family...

You'll be moved by the dramatic recollections of Lt. Mitchell's Civil War experiences and his famous escape from Libby Prison in Richmond, Va., and of the daughter who grew up in her father's shadow and whose life entailed a different kind of escape.

### Between Friends...

MSU Straw Hat Players alumni Jan Maxwell and Jerry verDorn return to their alma mater and to a time they remember to perform "The Country I Remember." They have not appeared on stage together since 1982 in the Straw Hat Players performance of *The Elephant Man*.



## Our Guest Stars

### Jan Maxwell

Jan Maxwell has appeared on Broadway in the Tony award-winning play *Dancing at Lughnasa* and in the Tony award-winning musical *City of Angels*. She has extensive off-Broadway and regional theatre credits, as well as television appearances in *Law and Order* and *AIDS: Changing the Rules*. Currently she is Pine Valley's resident psychiatrist, Dr. Anna Tolan, on ABC's *All My Children*. She and her husband, Robert Emmet, are co-directors of *The Barker Project*, a New York-based theatre company dedicated to exploring the works of British playwright Howard Barker. They have one son and live in Manhattan.



### Jerry verDorn

Jerry verDorn has appeared in *Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been?* and in the Broadway show *Man and Superman*. He joined the cast of *Guiding Light* in 1979, creating the role of attorney Ross Marler. Since then, he has appeared in numerous television commercials and regional theatre productions. He also played the GL character in the motion picture-for-television, *The Cradle Will Fall*, with Lauren Hutton and James Farentino. Last year, verDorn won the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. He has received four previous Emmy nominations for his portrayal of Ross Marler. He is married to MSU alum Bethea Stewart verDorn, who is a children's book author and teacher of English as a Second Language. They live in New Jersey with their two sons.



### David Mason

David Mason's prize-winning narrative poem, "The Country I Remember," won The Poetry Society of America's 1994 Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award in a competition judged by novelist Joyce Carol Oates. The poem was first published in the Summer 1995 issue of *The Hudson Review*, and has been performed at the Great American History Theatre in St. Paul and at Moorhead State University. Mason, a professor of English at Moorhead State University, was named 1994 Minnesota Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He is a widely published critic and has two books forthcoming: a collection of poems called "provider" and a collaborative anthology, both scheduled for publication in 1996. He is married to photographer Anne Lennox.



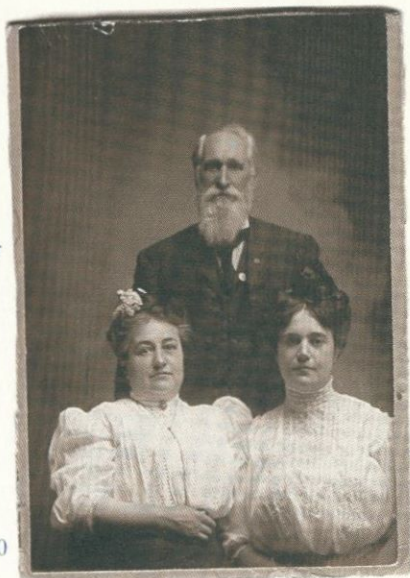
## The Performance

"The Country I Remember" will be performed on Friday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Moorhead State University's Roland Dille Center for the Arts Hansen Theatre. Tickets are \$10 adults; \$9 senior citizens; \$5 MSU students; and \$6 other students. For ticket reservations call the MSU Box Office at 218-236-2271, or return the ticket order form.

## Straw Hat Players Benefit Luncheon

A Straw Hat Players Benefit Luncheon, featuring Jan Maxwell and Jerry verDorn, will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 26 at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo. Maxwell and verDorn will talk about "The Straw Hat Players: A Foundation for Success." Reservations are \$50 per plate and include one ticket to the Friday evening performance of *The Country I Remember*. Limited seating is available. For reservations, call the MSU Box Office at 218-236-2271, or return the ticket order form.

Moorhead State University's Straw Hat Players extends its sincere appreciation to Northwest Airlines and Ramada Plaza Suites for sponsoring the performance and luncheon.



*Lt. Mitchell and Family*

### Mail Order Form for "The Country I Remember"

Mail reservations accepted only when accompanied by check, money order, or credit card number. Make checks payable to MSU Box Office. Orders received by April 17 will be sent by return mail if you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Ticket orders not paid for 24 hours prior to a performance are subject to resale.

### "The Country I Remember" Straw Hat Players Alumni Show Friday, April 26 / 7:30 p.m. / Hansen Theatre

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) at \$10 each.

### Straw Hat Players Benefit Luncheon

### Friday, April 26 / 11:30 a.m. / Ramada Plaza Suites

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) at \$50 each (includes 1 ticket to the performance).

- ☐ I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the performance of *The Country I Remember*.  
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14  
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**KX NEWS**



**6 & 10pm**

# 1996 Straw Hat Players Company



**Joy Arthur, Mounds View, Minnesota.** Joy joins The Straw Hat Players this year for the first time, and she will be a Theatre Arts student at MSU in the fall. She hopes to work as an actress in stage, film or television someday, and she also has training in sign language, voice and movement. Joy has appeared in productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Elaine), and *Grease* (Marty).



**Susan Beaver, Wilmot, South Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU, Susan played Adora in *Aladdin* this year. Last summer, as a Straw Hat apprentice, she was in the cast of *Godspell*. Susan had the honor of being chosen Best Scene Partner at the Irene Ryan competition this winter, and she represented the eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. As a career goal, Susan hopes to consistently work in the theatre.



**Abraham Bobst, Sebeka, Minnesota.** This is Abe's first summer with The Straw Hat Players. He was active in high school theatre, playing Leon in Neil Simon's *Fools*, and also here at MSU as a freshman Theatre Arts major, where he appeared in this fall's production of *As You Like It*. When he finishes school, Abe wants to become a professional actor or theatre critic.



**Wendy Bonach, Eveleth, Minnesota.** Wendy is studying with the Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program at MSU and is spending her first summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has previously played the roles of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. She plans to teach at the high school level and work in local and community theatres.



**Sara Marie Briggs, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Sara just completed her third year with MSU's Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program. This is also her third summer as a member of The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in the cast of *Godspell* and was Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap*, and in MSU's academic theatre she has played Ruby in *Dames at Sea*, among other roles.



**Jeff Brown, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.** Jeff is spending his second summer with Straw Hat and is entering his final year in the Technical Theatre program at MSU. He has plans to serve as Technical Director for a community theatre, and he would like to travel with a touring theatre production. During the academic year, Jeff was the Lighting Designer for *As You Like It*, Assistant Technical Director for *Aladdin* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Technical Director for *Assassins*.





**Bret Christensen, Casper, Wyoming.** As a student at Central Wyoming College, Brett has played Gary in *I Hate Hamlet*, Jamie in *My Fair Lady*, and Dallas in *The Outsiders*. He also has technical experience and plans to work as a professional stage actor, technician, or high school teacher. This is Brett's first season with The Straw Hat Players.



**Ryan Clemens, Lyman, Wyoming.** Ryan is a student at Central Wyoming College, where he played John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, Charlie in *The Foreigner*, and Eddie in *Fool for Love*. This is his first year participating with The Straw Hat Players. Ryan also has training in voice and stage movement. His ambition is to organize and operate a western touring theatre.



**Genny Dahl-Butler, Owatonna, Minnesota.** Genny was a freshman at MSU this year, studying Theatre Arts and Dance. She has extensive dance and voice training, as well as experience with choreography. This is her first time working with Straw Hat. Genny has had roles with the Little Theatre of Owatonna, as Thunder in *Pippie Longstocking* and Mary Emma Louise Jo Beth Smith in *Circle Me Fantasy*.



**Stephen P. Dolan, Grafton, North Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Steve played John Hinckley in *Assassins*, Mr. Gibbs in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and William in *As You Like It*. This is his third summer with Straw Hat, where he was seen in *They're Playing Our Song* and *Peter Pan*. Steve's modest wish is to be a working actor.



**Margaret Ann Eilertson, Britt, Minnesota.** Margaret was a junior at MSU this year and is here for her second Straw Hat season. Last summer she played Sonia Walsk in *They're Playing Our Song*, and during her academic career at MSU her roles have included Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme in *Assassins* and Celia in *As You Like It*. Margaret received an American College Theatre Festival nomination for her portrayal of Celia. She is majoring in Theatre Arts and Public Relations, through which she hopes to be able to support herself performing live theatre.



**Shane Flanagan, Fargo, North Dakota.** A student at Ouachita Baptist University, Shane is with The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. He has previously appeared as Noah Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Bellomy in *The Fantasticks* and Eddie in *The Open Meeting*. Shane also juggles and has vocal and dance training. He would like to continue acting as a profession, whether on stage or in film or television.



**Tania Fritz, Cooperstown, North Dakota.** Tania, a four-year veteran of The Straw Hat Players, is entering her senior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Straw Hat audiences may remember her as Sharon Lake in *Play It Again, Sam* last summer, and on the MSU stage as Audrey in *As You Like It*, Pinocchio in *Commedia Pinocchio*, and the Housewife in *Working*. After graduating with an acting and directing emphasis, Tania plans to attend graduate school and hopes to work as a university professor, teaching and directing theatre.



**Jason Gustine, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Jason hopes someday to "get paid to act." In the meantime, he is preparing himself by studying Theatre Arts at MSU. This is Jason's first year with The Straw Hat Players. At MSU, he has been seen in *Assassins* (Sam Byck), *Aladdin* (Genie of the Lamp), *Rossum's Universal Robots* (Radius) and *Date with a Stranger* (Clark).



**Ryan Jon Halliday, Grafton, North Dakota.** Ryan returns to The Straw Hat Players company after participating in last summer's apprenticeship program, where he sang as part of the cast of *Godspell*. As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Ryan had roles as the Sultan in *Aladdin* and the Balladeer in *Assassins*. Ryan is pursuing an acting degree with a dance minor.



**Ryan Newton Harris, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.** Ryan joins us for his second year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer, his roles included David Quinn in *Voice of the Prairie* and Judas in *Godspell*. His academic performances at MSU have included Charles Guiteau in *Assassins*, Teddy Roosevelt in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Jaques in *As You Like It*. Ryan graduates this year with a degree in Theatre Arts, and plans to use his skills in performance, directing, and writing (critical and fiction) to work in the entertainment industry.



**Matthew A. Kari, Osage, Minnesota.** 1996 is Matt's third summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer he designed the set for *Voice of the Prairie*. During his academic work at MSU, he has designed the set and lights for *Bent*. Matt has also served as Properties Chair for a number of productions, including MSU's *Chicago* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. This summer Matt designs the set for *Tartuffe*. He will graduate with a Technical Theatre degree next year and will use his training to work professionally as a set designer.



**Bryan King, Mankato, Minnesota.** Last summer, in his second year with Straw Hat, Bryan was seen in *Voice of the Prairie* and as Giles Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, he has played Lee Harvey Oswald in *Assassins*, Max in *Bent* and Sylvius in *As You Like It*. Bryan just graduated with a degree in Theatre Arts, and he will pursue a career acting and working in many other aspects of the theatre business.



**Michael Klug, Lead, South Dakota.** This is Michael's first summer acting with Straw Hat, although he has been very active on stage during his study of acting and directing at MSU. Michael's many roles have included Jonathan Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Horst in *Bent*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*, and the Captain in *Dames at Sea*. For his performance in *As You Like It*, he was nominated to the Irene Ryan competition for the American College Theatre Festival. Michael was MSU's first-ever regional acting winner at the ACTF contest, and he represented our eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. Michael graduates with his Theatre Arts degree at the end of the summer, and he hopes to work as a professional actor in theatre and film.





**Rachelle Larson, Fargo, North Dakota.** Rachelle is one of our Straw Hat Players apprentices this summer and will be a senior at Fargo South High School this fall. Rachelle has had extensive vocal and instrumental music training, and she has had roles in several plays, including *The Curious Savage* (Mrs. Savage), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Berthe), and *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae). Her plans for the future include work with theatre, music and education.



**Kellie Marie Loudon, Lisbon, North Dakota.** Kellie, who will be a freshman in MSU's Theatre Arts program this fall, is spending her first Straw Hat summer in the apprenticeship program. She has participated in other summer theatre programs, with roles in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *I Remember Mama* and *The Robber Bridegroom*. Kellie has several years of instrumental, vocal and dance training, and she plans to pursue a career in the musical theatre.



**Brian Mallgrave, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.** Brian is a Theatre major at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he has appeared as Wallace in *Women and Wallace*, Emcee in *Cabaret*, and Billy Bibbit in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. This is his first year with The Straw Hat Players. Brian would like to develop a career in theatre as a professional actor and scenic designer.



**Patrick D. Meehan, St. Cloud, Minnesota.** Last year was Patrick's first summer with The Straw Hat Players company, when he played Mr. Paravicini in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, while studying performance and directing, he was seen as Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* and the Sultan in *Aladdin*. After graduation next year, Patrick plans to move to Los Angeles to work in film or television.

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Bill Wilson  
*Director*

Roray Hedges  
*Head of Design*

Laurie Wigtil  
*Executive Director*

Kristen Huber  
*Technical Director/Designer*

Daniel Yurgaitis  
*Guest Director*

Peter Vandervort  
*Costume Designer*

Andrew Froelich  
*Musical Director/Conductor*

Randal Stowell  
*Vocal Director*

Peggy Bergquist  
*Office Manager*

Lindsay Husband  
*Promotion Director*

Dayna DelVal  
*House Manager*

Carl Wichman  
*Costume Assistant*

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Additional music by Ed Linderman

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**Andrew Froelich**, *Musical Director* / **Roray Hedges**, *Production Manager*  
**Kristin Huber**, *Set Designer* / **Dean Tschider**, *Technical Director*  
**Peter Vandervort**, *Costume Designer* / **Robert E. Rachow**, *Lighting Designer*  
**Bryan King**, **Robb Rossi**, *Stage Managers*

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Lettie, the maid .....	Lisa Witthuhn
Flint, the caretaker .....	Joe Papke
Clive, the butler .....	Ryan Jon Halliday
Hope Langdon .....	Robyn Wick
Dr. Grayburn .....	Ryan Clemens
Nigel Rancour .....	Michael Klug
Lady Grace Manley-Prowe .....	Margaret Eilertson
Colonel Gilweather .....	Jason Gustine
Miss Tweed, the detective .....	Sarah Ross
Geoffrey .....	Stephen P. Dolan
Voice of Lord Rancour .....	Brett Christensen

## Time

Late spring, 1935

## Place

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Piano .....	Patrick Godon
Percussion .....	Tom Christianson
Bass .....	Dave Zielinski
Brass .....	Timothy Justus
Woodwinds .....	Diane Townsend

## Musical Numbers

"A Marvelous Weekend"  
 "Something's Afoot"  
 "Carry On"  
 "I Don't Know Why I Trust You (But I Do)"  
 "The Man With the Ginger Moustache"  
 "Suspicious"

"The Legal Heir"  
 "You Fell Out of the Sky"  
 "Dinghy"  
 "I Owe It All"  
 "New Day"

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**Dawn Merkel, Mobridge, South Dakota.** Dawn just finished her second year studying Theatre Arts at MSU and is participating in her first Straw Hat season. She was seen on stage this year as a Slave in *Aladdin* and as Officer Klein in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Dawn has also had training in puppetry, and she plans to use her skills in that area as well as performance and scenic construction to pursue studies in the theatre.



**Tara K. Moller, Minot, North Dakota.** This is Tara's first year as a member of The Straw Hat Players. She has been active in the MSU theatre, including roles as Emma Goldman in *Assassins*, Angelita in *Penguin Blues*, and the Millworker in *Working*. Tara has also served as Chair and assistant on the costume crews of several productions. She recently graduated from MSU's Theatre Arts program, and she plans to pursue acting professionally.



**Faye Olson, Currie, Minnesota.** Faye Olson joins The Straw Hat Players this summer before entering her senior year at Westbrook Walnut Grove High School this fall. She is spending her summer here in the Straw Hat apprenticeship program. Some of Faye's stage experience includes writing some of the script and lyrics for a production entitled *Voice from a Distant Planet* and acting in *Sound of Thunder*. She plans to enter a career as a stage performer, technician and cosmetologist.



**Joe Papke, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Joe was a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, and he is part of The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. This past academic year saw him as Aladdin in *Aladdin*, Officer O'Hara in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and as part of the casts of *As You Like It* and *Assassins*. Joe has also participated in the Minneapolis Playwrights Center Young Playwrights Conference.



**Robert E. Rachow, Grafton, North Dakota.** Rob hopes to "work a long career in the theatre," and he has already had a substantial beginning. This year marks his fourth year with The Straw Hat Players. He is also very active as a Technical Theatre student at MSU, where he has appeared on stage as well as serving this year as Co-Lighting Designer for *Aladdin*, Assistant Technical Director for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Associate Lighting Designer for *Assassins*.



**Sarah Ross, St. Joseph, Minnesota.** Sarah is a recent graduate of MSU, with a major in Theatre Arts and a minor in Mass Communications. She is spending her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she played Frankie in *Voice of the Prairie* and Mollie Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, she has played Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, and the Schoolteacher in *Working*, for which she won a nomination to this year's American College Theatre Festival competition.



**Robb Rossi, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Last summer, as a first-year member of The Straw Hat Players, Robb was seen in the productions of *Play It Again, Sam*, in the role of Humphrey Bogart, and *The Mousetrap*, as Detective Trotter. As a senior MSU Theatre Arts major, he has performed in several roles, including Giuseppe Zangara in *Assassins*, Adam in *As You Like It* and Joe in *Working*. Robb plans to direct non-traditional theatre, and he enjoys improvisation and working with special effects makeup. He designed prosthetic makeup for the Monster in this year's *Arsenic and Old Lace*.





**Keli Jo Schimelpfenig, Spotsylvania, Virginia.** Keli joins us for her first year with The Straw Hat Players, after completing her first year as a Theatre Arts and Dance student at MSU. She has been seen in productions of *Assassins* (Housewife/Bystander) and *The Sound of Music* (Mother Abbess). She also has extensive vocal and instrumental training. Keli would like to teach high school theatre near her home state of Virginia.



**Lisa M. Semler, Coon Rapids, Minnesota.** In preparation for a career as a working stage actor, Lisa just completed her junior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Her roles here have included Kalissa in *Aladdin* and Martha Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She has also served as Costume Chair for *Assassins* and was very involved in the student one-acts. This is Lisa's first year with The Straw Hat Players company.



**Beatrice Gay Streitz, Moorhead, Minnesota.** Beatrice, a Theatre Arts student at MSU, joins The Straw Hat Players for the first time. She has had extensive forensics and public speaking experience, including twenty years as the Schoolmarm/Hostess at Bonanzaville, USA. Her other performance credits include Fargo/Moorhead Community Theatre and Fargo/Moorhead Civic Opera. Beatrice is pursuing a career in teaching and community theatre.



**Kristin L. Swenson, Rochester, Minnesota.** Kristin is a senior Theatre Arts major at MSU and is here for her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has also spent several years working with a children's theatre and mime school. Kristin appeared in last summer's production of *Godspell*. After graduation from MSU, she plans to work toward an MFA in Theatre Arts.



**Dean Tschider, Moorhead, Minnesota.** As the most-seasoned member of The Straw Hat Players, Dean marks his seventh summer this year. Dean has served as Assistant to the Technical Director for several productions, and designed the set for last summer's *The Mousetrap* and lights for *Voice of the Prairie*. He has also designed sets and lights for several productions during his career as a Technical Theatre major at MSU. Dean designs the set for this summer's production of *Beau Jest*.



**Robyn Wick, Crookston, Minnesota.** Robyn, who was a junior at MSU this year, is in her third year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in *Godspell*, and during the academic year she has been in *Assassins*, *As You Like It*, *Dames at Sea*, *Chicago* and *Tom Sawyer*, to name a few. Robyn is a Theatre Arts and Music major and Dance minor, and she hopes to be a professional working actress, preferably in musical theatre.



**Lisa Witthuhn, Hudson, Wisconsin.** Lisa, a sophomore Theatre Arts major and Music and Dance minor at MSU next fall, is working with The Straw Hat Players for the first time. This past year she played Kalissa in MSU's *Aladdin*, Maggie in *Overtures*, and was the Stage Manager/Assistant Director for *Assassins*. She has also been a member of Skitsos, an issue-related acting company that tours Minnesota and Wisconsin. Lisa hopes to make a living performing in the arts.



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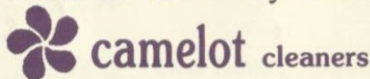
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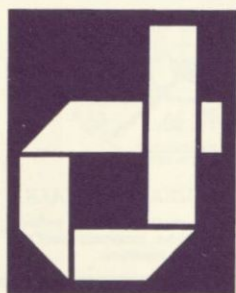
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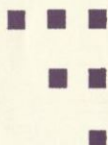
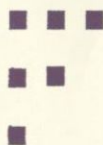
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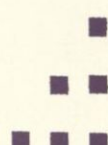
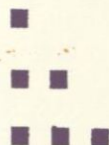
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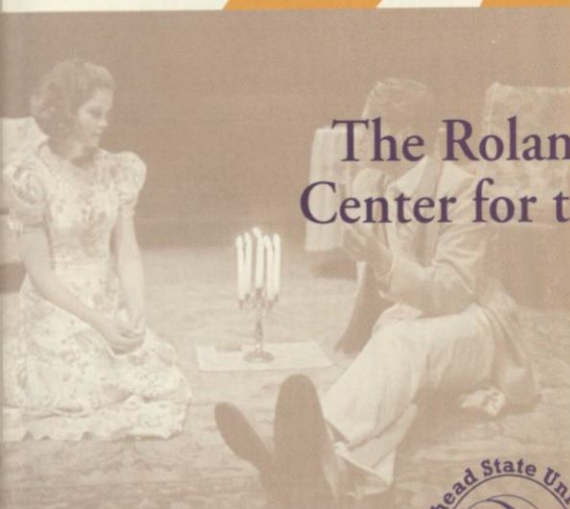
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# 1996 Straw Hat Players Company



**Joy Arthur, Mounds View, Minnesota.** Joy joins The Straw Hat Players this year for the first time, and she will be a Theatre Arts student at MSU in the fall. She hopes to work as an actress in stage, film or television someday, and she also has training in sign language, voice and movement. Joy has appeared in productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Elaine), and *Grease* (Marty).



**Susan Beaver, Wilmot, South Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU, Susan played Adora in *Aladdin* this year. Last summer, as a Straw Hat apprentice, she was in the cast of *Godspell*. Susan had the honor of being chosen Best Scene Partner at the Irene Ryan competition this winter, and she represented the eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. As a career goal, Susan hopes to consistently work in the theatre.



**Abraham Bobst, Sebeka, Minnesota.** This is Abe's first summer with The Straw Hat Players. He was active in high school theatre, playing Leon in Neil Simon's *Fools*, and also here at MSU as a freshman Theatre Arts major, where he appeared in this fall's production of *As You Like It*. When he finishes school, Abe wants to become a professional actor or theatre critic.



**Wendy Bonach, Eveleth, Minnesota.** Wendy is studying with the Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program at MSU and is spending her first summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has previously played the roles of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. She plans to teach at the high school level and work in local and community theatres.



**Sara Marie Briggs, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Sara just completed her third year with MSU's Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program. This is also her third summer as a member of The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in the cast of *Godspell* and was Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap*, and in MSU's academic theatre she has played Ruby in *Dames at Sea*, among other roles.



**Jeff Brown, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.** Jeff is spending his second summer with Straw Hat and is entering his final year in the Technical Theatre program at MSU. He has plans to serve as Technical Director for a community theatre, and he would like to travel with a touring theatre production. During the academic year, Jeff was the Lighting Designer for *As You Like It*, Assistant Technical Director for *Aladdin* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Technical Director for *Assassins*.



**Bret Christensen, Casper, Wyoming.** As a student at Central Wyoming College, Brett has played Gary in *I Hate Hamlet*, Jamie in *My Fair Lady*, and Dallas in *The Outsiders*. He also has technical experience and plans to work as a professional stage actor, technician, or high school teacher. This is Brett's first season with The Straw Hat Players.



**Ryan Clemens, Lyman, Wyoming.** Ryan is a student at Central Wyoming College, where he played John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, Charlie in *The Foreigner*, and Eddie in *Fool for Love*. This is his first year participating with The Straw Hat Players. Ryan also has training in voice and stage movement. His ambition is to organize and operate a western touring theatre.



**Genny Dahl-Butler, Owatonna, Minnesota.** Genny was a freshman at MSU this year, studying Theatre Arts and Dance. She has extensive dance and voice training, as well as experience with choreography. This is her first time working with Straw Hat. Genny has had roles with the Little Theatre of Owatonna, as Thunder in *Pippie Longstocking* and Mary Emma Louise Jo Beth Smith in *Circle Me Fantasy*.



**Stephen P. Dolan, Grafton, North Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Steve played John Hinckley in *Assassins*, Mr. Gibbs in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and William in *As You Like It*. This is his third summer with Straw Hat, where he was seen in *They're Playing Our Song* and *Peter Pan*. Steve's modest wish is to be a working actor.



**Margaret Ann Eilertson, Britt, Minnesota.** Margaret was a junior at MSU this year and is here for her second Straw Hat season. Last summer she played Sonia Walsk in *They're Playing Our Song*, and during her academic career at MSU her roles have included Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme in *Assassins* and Celia in *As You Like It*. Margaret received an American College Theatre Festival nomination for her portrayal of Celia. She is majoring in Theatre Arts and Public Relations, through which she hopes to be able to support herself performing live theatre.



**Shane Flanagan, Fargo, North Dakota.** A student at Ouachita Baptist University, Shane is with The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. He has previously appeared as Noah Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Bellomy in *The Fantasticks* and Eddie in *The Open Meeting*. Shane also juggles and has vocal and dance training. He would like to continue acting as a profession, whether on stage or in film or television.



**Tania Fritz, Cooperstown, North Dakota.** Tania, a four-year veteran of The Straw Hat Players, is entering her senior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Straw Hat audiences may remember her as Sharon Lake in *Play It Again, Sam* last summer, and on the MSU stage as Audrey in *As You Like It*, Pinocchio in *Commedia Pinocchio*, and the Housewife in *Working*. After graduating with an acting and directing emphasis, Tania plans to attend graduate school and hopes to work as a university professor, teaching and directing theatre.





**Jason Gustine, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Jason hopes someday to "get paid to act." In the meantime, he is preparing himself by studying Theatre Arts at MSU. This is Jason's first year with The Straw Hat Players. At MSU, he has been seen in *Assassins* (Sam Byck), *Aladdin* (Genie of the Lamp), *Rossum's Universal Robots* (Radius) and *Date with a Stranger* (Clark).



**Ryan Jon Halliday, Grafton, North Dakota.** Ryan returns to The Straw Hat Players company after participating in last summer's apprenticeship program, where he sang as part of the cast of *Godspell*. As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Ryan had roles as the Sultan in *Aladdin* and the Balladeer in *Assassins*. Ryan is pursuing an acting degree with a dance minor.



**Ryan Newton Harris, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.** Ryan joins us for his second year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer, his roles included David Quinn in *Voice of the Prairie* and Judas in *Godspell*. His academic performances at MSU have included Charles Guiteau in *Assassins*, Teddy Roosevelt in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Jaques in *As You Like It*. Ryan graduates this year with a degree in Theatre Arts, and plans to use his skills in performance, directing, and writing (critical and fiction) to work in the entertainment industry.



**Matthew A. Kari, Osage, Minnesota.** 1996 is Matt's third summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer he designed the set for *Voice of the Prairie*. During his academic work at MSU, he has designed the set and lights for *Bent*. Matt has also served as Properties Chair for a number of productions, including MSU's *Chicago* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. This summer Matt designs the set for *Tartuffe*. He will graduate with a Technical Theatre degree next year and will use his training to work professionally as a set designer.



**Bryan King, Mankato, Minnesota.** Last summer, in his second year with Straw Hat, Bryan was seen in *Voice of the Prairie* and as Giles Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, he has played Lee Harvey Oswald in *Assassins*, Max in *Bent* and Sylvius in *As You Like It*. Bryan just graduated with a degree in Theatre Arts, and he will pursue a career acting and working in many other aspects of the theatre business.



**Michael Klug, Lead, South Dakota.** This is Michael's first summer acting with Straw Hat, although he has been very active on stage during his study of acting and directing at MSU. Michael's many roles have included Jonathan Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Horst in *Bent*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*, and the Captain in *Dames at Sea*. For his performance in *As You Like It*, he was nominated to the Irene Ryan competition for the American College Theatre Festival. Michael was MSU's first-ever regional acting winner at the ACTF contest, and he represented our eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. Michael graduates with his Theatre Arts degree at the end of the summer, and he hopes to work as a professional actor in theatre and film.





**Rachelle Larson, Fargo, North Dakota.** Rachelle is one of our Straw Hat Players apprentices this summer and will be a senior at Fargo South High School this fall. Rachelle has had extensive vocal and instrumental music training, and she has had roles in several plays, including *The Curious Savage* (Mrs. Savage), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Berthe), and *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae). Her plans for the future include work with theatre, music and education.



**Kellie Marie Loudon, Lisbon, North Dakota.** Kellie, who will be a freshman in MSU's Theatre Arts program this fall, is spending her first Straw Hat summer in the apprenticeship program. She has participated in other summer theatre programs, with roles in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *I Remember Mama* and *The Robber Bridegroom*. Kellie has several years of instrumental, vocal and dance training, and she plans to pursue a career in the musical theatre.



**Brian Mallgrave, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.** Brian is a Theatre major at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he has appeared as Wallace in *Women and Wallace*, Emcee in *Cabaret*, and Billy Bibbit in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. This is his first year with The Straw Hat Players. Brian would like to develop a career in theatre as a professional actor and scenic designer.



**Patrick D. Meehan, St. Cloud, Minnesota.** Last year was Patrick's first summer with The Straw Hat Players company, when he played Mr. Paravicini in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, while studying performance and directing, he was seen as Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* and the Sultan in *Aladdin*. After graduation next year, Patrick plans to move to Los Angeles to work in film or television.

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Bill Wilson  
*Director*

Roray Hedges  
*Head of Design*

Laurie Wigtil  
*Executive Director*

Kristen Huber  
*Technical Director/Designer*

Daniel Yurgaitis  
*Guest Director*

Peter Vandervort  
*Costume Designer*

Andrew Froelich  
*Musical Director/Conductor*

Randal Stowell  
*Vocal Director*

Peggy Bergquist  
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# ♂ ♀ Beau Jest

A comedy by James Sherman

**Jim Bartruff**, *Director*

**Roray Hedges**, *Production Manager*

**Dean Tschider**, *Set Designer/Technical Director*

**Peter Vandervort**, *Costume Designer*

**Kristin Huber**, *Lighting Designer*

**Tania Fritz**, *Stage Manager/Assistant Director*

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Sarah Goldman .....	Susan Beaver
Chris, her boyfriend .....	Patrick D. Meehan
Bob, her escort .....	Brian Mallgrave
Joel, her brother .....	Shane A. Flanagan
Miriam, her mother .....	Sara Marie Briggs
Abe, her father .....	Ryan Newton Harris

## Place

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## Time

Act I, Scene 1: An evening in spring

Act I, Scene 2: Later that evening

Act II, Scene 1: Two weeks later

Act II, Scene 2: Later that evening

Act III, Scene 1: Two weeks later

Act III, Scene 2: The next morning

There will be two ten-minute intermissions.

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## About tonight's production...

*Beau Jest* emerged from Chicago, a product of the Victory Gardens Theatre. Playwright James Sherman's comedy was first presented in June 1990. It has gone on to play off-Broadway and at regional, educational and community theatres across America. The script is written in a classical three-act form. The audience is presented with a situation, a complication, a climax and a denouement. A disordered world is returned to order without taking a pejorative attitude to any particular character or characters. *Beau Jest* is a play in which Judaism might be considered to be a major theme, yet it is far more concerned with the behavior that exists between parents and their children. One of the pleasures of *Beau Jest* is in viewing Bob, an actor, making the best of a difficult situation while, at the same time, seeing him share in the joyous contribution of Jewish culture--L'chaim. (Abridged from the notes of Dennis Zacek, the original director of *Beau Jest*)

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Dr. David Rostad  
Erna E. Swisher  
Harlan Wallam





**Dawn Merkel, Mobridge, South Dakota.** Dawn just finished her second year studying Theatre Arts at MSU and is participating in her first Straw Hat season. She was seen on stage this year as a Slave in *Aladdin* and as Officer Klein in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Dawn has also had training in puppetry, and she plans to use her skills in that area as well as performance and scenic construction to pursue studies in the theatre.



**Tara K. Moller, Minot, North Dakota.** This is Tara's first year as a member of The Straw Hat Players. She has been active in the MSU theatre, including roles as Emma Goldman in *Assassins*, Angelita in *Penguin Blues*, and the Millworker in *Working*. Tara has also served as Chair and assistant on the costume crews of several productions. She recently graduated from MSU's Theatre Arts program, and she plans to pursue acting professionally.



**Faye Olson, Currie, Minnesota.** Faye Olson joins The Straw Hat Players this summer before entering her senior year at Westbrook Walnut Grove High School this fall. She is spending her summer here in the Straw Hat apprenticeship program. Some of Faye's stage experience includes writing some of the script and lyrics for a production entitled *Voice from a Distant Planet* and acting in *Sound of Thunder*. She plans to enter a career as a stage performer, technician and cosmetologist.



**Joe Papke, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Joe was a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, and he is part of The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. This past academic year saw him as Aladdin in *Aladdin*, Officer O'Hara in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and as part of the casts of *As You Like It* and *Assassins*. Joe has also participated in the Minneapolis Playwrights Center Young Playwrights Conference.



**Robert E. Rachow, Grafton, North Dakota.** Rob hopes to "work a long career in the theatre," and he has already had a substantial beginning. This year marks his fourth year with The Straw Hat Players. He is also very active as a Technical Theatre student at MSU, where he has appeared on stage as well as serving this year as Co-Lighting Designer for *Aladdin*, Assistant Technical Director for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Associate Lighting Designer for *Assassins*.



**Sarah Ross, St. Joseph, Minnesota.** Sarah is a recent graduate of MSU, with a major in Theatre Arts and a minor in Mass Communications. She is spending her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she played Frankie in *Voice of the Prairie* and Mollie Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, she has played Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, and the Schoolteacher in *Working*, for which she won a nomination to this year's American College Theatre Festival competition.



**Robb Rossi, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Last summer, as a first-year member of The Straw Hat Players, Robb was seen in the productions of *Play It Again, Sam*, in the role of Humphrey Bogart, and *The Mousetrap*, as Detective Trotter. As a senior MSU Theatre Arts major, he has performed in several roles, including Giuseppe Zangara in *Assassins*, Adam in *As You Like It* and Joe in *Working*. Robb plans to direct non-traditional theatre, and he enjoys improvisation and working with special effects makeup. He designed prosthetic makeup for the Monster in this year's *Arsenic and Old Lace*.





**Keli Jo Schimelpfenig, Spotsylvania, Virginia.** Keli joins us for her first year with The Straw Hat Players, after completing her first year as a Theatre Arts and Dance student at MSU. She has been seen in productions of *Assassins* (Housewife/Bystander) and *The Sound of Music* (Mother Abbess). She also has extensive vocal and instrumental training. Keli would like to teach high school theatre near her home state of Virginia.



**Lisa M. Semler, Coon Rapids, Minnesota.** In preparation for a career as a working stage actor, Lisa just completed her junior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Her roles here have included Kalissa in *Aladdin* and Martha Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She has also served as Costume Chair for *Assassins* and was very involved in the student one-acts. This is Lisa's first year with The Straw Hat Players company.



**Beatrice Gay Streitz, Moorhead, Minnesota.** Beatrice, a Theatre Arts student at MSU, joins The Straw Hat Players for the first time. She has had extensive forensics and public speaking experience, including twenty years as the Schoolmarm/Hostess at Bonanzaville, USA. Her other performance credits include Fargo/Moorhead Community Theatre and Fargo/Moorhead Civic Opera. Beatrice is pursuing a career in teaching and community theatre.



**Kristin L. Swenson, Rochester, Minnesota.** Kristin is a senior Theatre Arts major at MSU and is here for her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has also spent several years working with a children's theatre and mime school. Kristin appeared in last summer's production of *Godspell*. After graduation from MSU, she plans to work toward an MFA in Theatre Arts.



**Dean Tschider, Moorhead, Minnesota.** As the most-seasoned member of The Straw Hat Players, Dean marks his seventh summer this year. Dean has served as Assistant to the Technical Director for several productions, and designed the set for last summer's *The Mousetrap* and lights for *Voice of the Prairie*. He has also designed sets and lights for several productions during his career as a Technical Theatre major at MSU. Dean designs the set for this summer's production of *Beau Jest*.



**Robyn Wick, Crookston, Minnesota.** Robyn, who was a junior at MSU this year, is in her third year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in *Godspell*, and during the academic year she has been in *Assassins*, *As You Like It*, *Dames at Sea*, *Chicago* and *Tom Sawyer*, to name a few. Robyn is a Theatre Arts and Music major and Dance minor, and she hopes to be a professional working actress, preferably in musical theatre.



**Lisa Witthuhn, Hudson, Wisconsin.** Lisa, a sophomore Theatre Arts major and Music and Dance minor at MSU next fall, is working with The Straw Hat Players for the first time. This past year she played Kalissa in MSU's *Aladdin*, Maggie in *Overtures*, and was the Stage Manager/Assistant Director for *Assassins*. She has also been a member of Skitsos, an issue-related acting company that tours Minnesota and Wisconsin. Lisa hopes to make a living performing in the arts.



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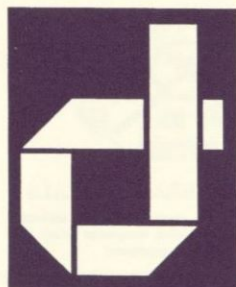
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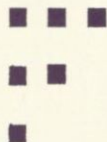
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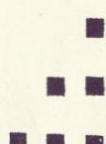
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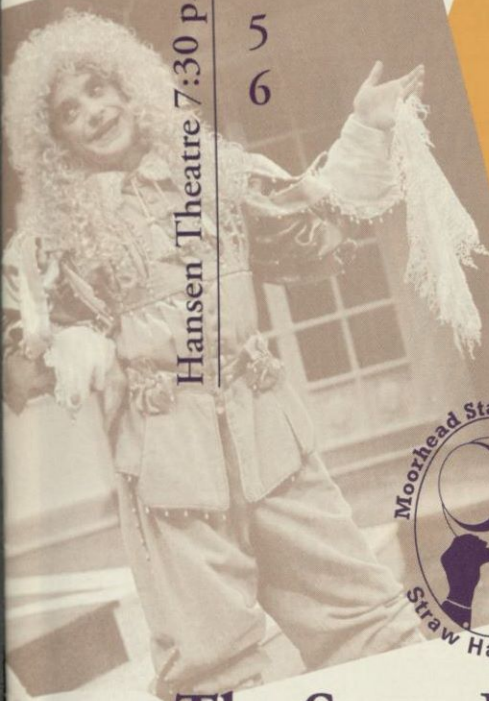
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# 1996 Straw Hat Players Company



**Joy Arthur, Mounds View, Minnesota.** Joy joins The Straw Hat Players this year for the first time, and she will be a Theatre Arts student at MSU in the fall. She hopes to work as an actress in stage, film or television someday, and she also has training in sign language, voice and movement. Joy has appeared in productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Elaine), and *Grease* (Marty).



**Susan Beaver, Wilmot, South Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU, Susan played Adora in *Aladdin* this year. Last summer, as a Straw Hat apprentice, she was in the cast of *Godspell*. Susan had the honor of being chosen Best Scene Partner at the Irene Ryan competition this winter, and she represented the eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. As a career goal, Susan hopes to consistently work in the theatre.



**Abraham Bobst, Sebeka, Minnesota.** This is Abe's first summer with The Straw Hat Players. He was active in high school theatre, playing Leon in Neil Simon's *Fools*, and also here at MSU as a freshman Theatre Arts major, where he appeared in this fall's production of *As You Like It*. When he finishes school, Abe wants to become a professional actor or theatre critic.



**Wendy Bonach, Eveleth, Minnesota.** Wendy is studying with the Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program at MSU and is spending her first summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has previously played the roles of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. She plans to teach at the high school level and work in local and community theatres.



**Sara Marie Briggs, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Sara just completed her third year with MSU's Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program. This is also her third summer as a member of The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in the cast of *Godspell* and was Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap*, and in MSU's academic theatre she has played Ruby in *Dames at Sea*, among other roles.



**Jeff Brown, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.** Jeff is spending his second summer with Straw Hat and is entering his final year in the Technical Theatre program at MSU. He has plans to serve as Technical Director for a community theatre, and he would like to travel with a touring theatre production. During the academic year, Jeff was the Lighting Designer for *As You Like It*, Assistant Technical Director for *Aladdin* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Technical Director for *Assassins*.





**Bret Christensen, Casper, Wyoming.** As a student at Central Wyoming College, Brett has played Gary in *I Hate Hamlet*, Jamie in *My Fair Lady*, and Dallas in *The Outsiders*. He also has technical experience and plans to work as a professional stage actor, technician, or high school teacher. This is Brett's first season with The Straw Hat Players.



**Ryan Clemens, Lyman, Wyoming.** Ryan is a student at Central Wyoming College, where he played John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, Charlie in *The Foreigner*, and Eddie in *Fool for Love*. This is his first year participating with The Straw Hat Players. Ryan also has training in voice and stage movement. His ambition is to organize and operate a western touring theatre.



**Genny Dahl-Butler, Owatonna, Minnesota.** Genny was a freshman at MSU this year, studying Theatre Arts and Dance. She has extensive dance and voice training, as well as experience with choreography. This is her first time working with Straw Hat. Genny has had roles with the Little Theatre of Owatonna, as Thunder in *Pippie Longstocking* and Mary Emma Louise Jo Beth Smith in *Circle Me Fantasy*.



**Stephen P. Dolan, Grafton, North Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Steve played John Hinckley in *Assassins*, Mr. Gibbs in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and William in *As You Like It*. This is his third summer with Straw Hat, where he was seen in *They're Playing Our Song* and *Peter Pan*. Steve's modest wish is to be a working actor.



**Margaret Ann Eilertson, Britt, Minnesota.** Margaret was a junior at MSU this year and is here for her second Straw Hat season. Last summer she played Sonia Walsk in *They're Playing Our Song*, and during her academic career at MSU her roles have included Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme in *Assassins* and Celia in *As You Like It*. Margaret received an American College Theatre Festival nomination for her portrayal of Celia. She is majoring in Theatre Arts and Public Relations, through which she hopes to be able to support herself performing live theatre.



**Shane Flanagan, Fargo, North Dakota.** A student at Ouachita Baptist University, Shane is with The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. He has previously appeared as Noah Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Bellomy in *The Fantasticks* and Eddie in *The Open Meeting*. Shane also juggles and has vocal and dance training. He would like to continue acting as a profession, whether on stage or in film or television.



**Tania Fritz, Cooperstown, North Dakota.** Tania, a four-year veteran of The Straw Hat Players, is entering her senior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Straw Hat audiences may remember her as Sharon Lake in *Play It Again, Sam* last summer, and on the MSU stage as Audrey in *As You Like It*, Pinocchio in *Commedia Pinocchio*, and the Housewife in *Working*. After graduating with an acting and directing emphasis, Tania plans to attend graduate school and hopes to work as a university professor, teaching and directing theatre.



**Jason Gustine, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Jason hopes someday to "get paid to act." In the meantime, he is preparing himself by studying Theatre Arts at MSU. This is Jason's first year with The Straw Hat Players. At MSU, he has been seen in *Assassins* (Sam Byck), *Aladdin* (Genie of the Lamp), *Rossum's Universal Robots* (Radius) and *Date with a Stranger* (Clark).



**Ryan Jon Halliday, Grafton, North Dakota.** Ryan returns to The Straw Hat Players company after participating in last summer's apprenticeship program, where he sang as part of the cast of *Godspell*. As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Ryan had roles as the Sultan in *Aladdin* and the Balladeer in *Assassins*. Ryan is pursuing an acting degree with a dance minor.



**Ryan Newton Harris, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.** Ryan joins us for his second year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer, his roles included David Quinn in *Voice of the Prairie* and Judas in *Godspell*. His academic performances at MSU have included Charles Guiteau in *Assassins*, Teddy Roosevelt in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Jaques in *As You Like It*. Ryan graduates this year with a degree in Theatre Arts, and plans to use his skills in performance, directing, and writing (critical and fiction) to work in the entertainment industry.



**Matthew A. Kari, Osage, Minnesota.** 1996 is Matt's third summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer he designed the set for *Voice of the Prairie*. During his academic work at MSU, he has designed the set and lights for *Bent*. Matt has also served as Properties Chair for a number of productions, including MSU's *Chicago* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. This summer Matt designs the set for *Tartuffe*. He will graduate with a Technical Theatre degree next year and will use his training to work professionally as a set designer.



**Bryan King, Mankato, Minnesota.** Last summer, in his second year with Straw Hat, Bryan was seen in *Voice of the Prairie* and as Giles Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, he has played Lee Harvey Oswald in *Assassins*, Max in *Bent* and Sylvius in *As You Like It*. Bryan just graduated with a degree in Theatre Arts, and he will pursue a career acting and working in many other aspects of the theatre business.



**Michael Klug, Lead, South Dakota.** This is Michael's first summer acting with Straw Hat, although he has been very active on stage during his study of acting and directing at MSU. Michael's many roles have included Jonathan Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Horst in *Bent*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*, and the Captain in *Dames at Sea*. For his performance in *As You Like It*, he was nominated to the Irene Ryan competition for the American College Theatre Festival. Michael was MSU's first-ever regional acting winner at the ACTF contest, and he represented our eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. Michael graduates with his Theatre Arts degree at the end of the summer, and he hopes to work as a professional actor in theatre and film.





**Rachelle Larson, Fargo, North Dakota.** Rachelle is one of our Straw Hat Players apprentices this summer and will be a senior at Fargo South High School this fall. Rachelle has had extensive vocal and instrumental music training, and she has had roles in several plays, including *The Curious Savage* (Mrs. Savage), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Berthe), and *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae). Her plans for the future include work with theatre, music and education.



**Kellie Marie Loudon, Lisbon, North Dakota.** Kellie, who will be a freshman in MSU's Theatre Arts program this fall, is spending her first Straw Hat summer in the apprenticeship program. She has participated in other summer theatre programs, with roles in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *I Remember Mama* and *The Robber Bridegroom*. Kellie has several years of instrumental, vocal and dance training, and she plans to pursue a career in the musical theatre.



**Brian Mallgrave, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.** Brian is a Theatre major at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he has appeared as Wallace in *Women and Wallace*, Emcee in *Cabaret*, and Billy Bibbit in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. This is his first year with The Straw Hat Players. Brian would like to develop a career in theatre as a professional actor and scenic designer.



**Patrick D. Meehan, St. Cloud, Minnesota.** Last year was Patrick's first summer with The Straw Hat Players company, when he played Mr. Paravicini in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, while studying performance and directing, he was seen as Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* and the Sultan in *Aladdin*. After graduation next year, Patrick plans to move to Los Angeles to work in film or television.

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*Director*

Roray Hedges  
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Laurie Wigtil  
*Executive Director*

Kristen Huber  
*Technical Director/Designer*

Daniel Yurgaitis  
*Guest Director*

Peter Vandervort  
*Costume Designer*

Andrew Froelich  
*Musical Director/Conductor*

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# TARTUFFE



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with a prologue taken from L'Impromptu de Versailles*

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**Bill Wilson, Style and Movement Coach**  
**Roray Hedges, Production Manager**  
**Matthew A. Kari, Set Designer**  
**Jeff Brown, Technical Director/Lighting Designer**  
**Peter Vandervort, Costume Designer**  
**Sara Marie Briggs, Stage Manager**

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

King Louis XIV .....	Bryan King
Madame Pernelle, Orgon's mother .....	P. Vandervort
Elmire, Orgon's second wife .....	Sarah Ross
Dorine, Mariane's maid .....	Lisa M. Semler
Damis, Orgon's son .....	Joe Papke
Mariane, Orgon's daughter .....	Rachelle Larson
Cleante, Elmire's brother .....	Patrick D. Meehan
Flipote, Mme. Pernelle's maid .....	Tara K. Moller
Orgon, a rich merchant .....	Ryan Newton Harris
Valere, betrothed to Mariane .....	Abe Bobst
Tartuffe's manservant .....	Shane A. Flanagan
Tartuffe .....	Michael Klug
Loyale, a bailiff .....	Robb Rossi
An Officer .....	Brian Mallgrave
Sergeants, Servants, Actors .....	Wendy Bonach, Ryan Clemens Brett Christensen, Faye Olson, Keli Jo Schimelpfenig

## Scenes

The Prologue: The Stage of the Theatre du Palais Royal, 1664.  
The Play (Acts I & II): The House of Monsieur Orgon, Paris, 1663.

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## Daniel Yurgaitis, *Guest Director*

(B.A., DePaul University, Chicago; MFA, United States International University, San Diego)

A member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Mr. Yurgaitis has directed and choreographed for theatres throughout the country. As the former Managing Director for Detroit's Attic Theatre, his direction for their productions was recognized three times for outstanding direction by the Detroit Free Press and won the 1986 Director of the Year Award from the Detroit News Drama Critic. Recently, he was cited by the San Diego Union-Tribune for his production of *Rumors* in that city and by the Arizona Daily Star for the Arizona Repertory Theatre productions of *A Little Hotel on the Side* and *Sunday in the Park with George* in Tucson. Among his regional credits are productions of *Quilters*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Nunsense*, *A Chorus Line*, *Baby*, *Big River*, *Funny Girl*, *Eastern Standard*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *Fool for Love* and *Strider* for such theatre companies as the North Coast Repertory Theatre, Timber Lake Playhouse, Little Theatre-on-the-Square, Tibbits Summer Theatre, the Theatre in Old Town, the Moonlight Amphitheater and the True Grist Dinner Theatre. Mr. Yurgaitis has been an artist in residence and guest lecturer at Eastern Michigan University, Oklahoma's Cameron University, St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana and is on the theatre arts faculty of the University of Arizona in Tucson.



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# *Tartuffe* and the Theatre of Moliere

*Tartuffe* was the most scandalous play produced during the reign of Louis XIV. When it was first presented on April 12, 1664, *Tartuffe* exposed a hypocrite who while coaching the head of the family, Orgon, in pious behavior, used his own piety to hide his lust and greed.

After several more private performances for the court audience, King Louis finally consented to public performances in the spring of 1669. *Tartuffe* was a great success, running for forty-four consecutive performances at the Palais Royal. Even though the play was revised, the character of *Tartuffe* being presented as a layman rather than a cleric, the church redoubled its efforts to discredit the play and its author. Moliere, by response, gave top priority to an accurate publication and wrote a preface in which his law school logic destroyed the case of his adversaries. His careful attention to the publication has given us a very accurate text of a play some three hundred years old.

Moliere assumed his stage name, most likely, out of deference for his family, for the life of an actor is not what Monsieur Poquelin had in mind for his son Jean Baptiste. After a proper education at the College de Clermont, Jean attended Orleans to complete training in civil law. He joined a group of young men and women from well-to-do families who had formed a dramatic company they called "L'illustre Theatre." After three years of unprecedented failure, the company left Paris for the provinces with Jean Poquelin, now Moliere, as actor and playwright.

The company returned to Paris to play before the King in 1659. Within six months, they were established in, and eventually moved to the finest Paris theatre, the Palais-Royal.

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**Dawn Merkel, Mobridge, South Dakota.** Dawn just finished her second year studying Theatre Arts at MSU and is participating in her first Straw Hat season. She was seen on stage this year as a Slave in *Aladdin* and as Officer Klein in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Dawn has also had training in puppetry, and she plans to use her skills in that area as well as performance and scenic construction to pursue studies in the theatre.



**Tara K. Moller, Minot, North Dakota.** This is Tara's first year as a member of The Straw Hat Players. She has been active in the MSU theatre, including roles as Emma Goldman in *Assassins*, Angelita in *Penguin Blues*, and the Millworker in *Working*. Tara has also served as Chair and assistant on the costume crews of several productions. She recently graduated from MSU's Theatre Arts program, and she plans to pursue acting professionally.



**Faye Olson, Currie, Minnesota.** Faye Olson joins The Straw Hat Players this summer before entering her senior year at Westbrook Walnut Grove High School this fall. She is spending her summer here in the Straw Hat apprenticeship program. Some of Faye's stage experience includes writing some of the script and lyrics for a production entitled *Voice from a Distant Planet* and acting in *Sound of Thunder*. She plans to enter a career as a stage performer, technician and cosmetologist.



**Joe Papke, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Joe was a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, and he is part of The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. This past academic year saw him as Aladdin in *Aladdin*, Officer O'Hara in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and as part of the casts of *As You Like It* and *Assassins*. Joe has also participated in the Minneapolis Playwrights Center Young Playwrights Conference.



**Robert E. Rachow, Grafton, North Dakota.** Rob hopes to "work a long career in the theatre," and he has already had a substantial beginning. This year marks his fourth year with The Straw Hat Players. He is also very active as a Technical Theatre student at MSU, where he has appeared on stage as well as serving this year as Co-Lighting Designer for *Aladdin*, Assistant Technical Director for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Associate Lighting Designer for *Assassins*.



**Sarah Ross, St. Joseph, Minnesota.** Sarah is a recent graduate of MSU, with a major in Theatre Arts and a minor in Mass Communications. She is spending her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she played Frankie in *Voice of the Prairie* and Mollie Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, she has played Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, and the Schoolteacher in *Working*, for which she won a nomination to this year's American College Theatre Festival competition.



**Robb Rossi, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Last summer, as a first-year member of The Straw Hat Players, Robb was seen in the productions of *Play It Again, Sam*, in the role of Humphrey Bogart, and *The Mousetrap*, as Detective Trotter. As a senior MSU Theatre Arts major, he has performed in several roles, including Giuseppe Zangara in *Assassins*, Adam in *As You Like It* and Joe in *Working*. Robb plans to direct non-traditional theatre, and he enjoys improvisation and working with special effects makeup. He designed prosthetic makeup for the Monster in this year's *Arsenic and Old Lace*.





**Keli Jo Schimelpfenig, Spotsylvania, Virginia.** Keli joins us for her first year with The Straw Hat Players, after completing her first year as a Theatre Arts and Dance student at MSU. She has been seen in productions of *Assassins* (Housewife/Bystander) and *The Sound of Music* (Mother Abbess). She also has extensive vocal and instrumental training. Keli would like to teach high school theatre near her home state of Virginia.



**Lisa M. Semler, Coon Rapids, Minnesota.** In preparation for a career as a working stage actor, Lisa just completed her junior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Her roles here have included Kalissa in *Aladdin* and Martha Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She has also served as Costume Chair for *Assassins* and was very involved in the student one-acts. This is Lisa's first year with The Straw Hat Players company.



**Beatrice Gay Streitz, Moorhead, Minnesota.** Beatrice, a Theatre Arts student at MSU, joins The Straw Hat Players for the first time. She has had extensive forensics and public speaking experience, including twenty years as the Schoolmarm/Hostess at Bonanzaville, USA. Her other performance credits include Fargo/Moorhead Community Theatre and Fargo/Moorhead Civic Opera. Beatrice is pursuing a career in teaching and community theatre.



**Kristin L. Swenson, Rochester, Minnesota.** Kristin is a senior Theatre Arts major at MSU and is here for her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has also spent several years working with a children's theatre and mime school. Kristin appeared in last summer's production of *Godspell*. After graduation from MSU, she plans to work toward an MFA in Theatre Arts.



**Dean Tschider, Moorhead, Minnesota.** As the most-seasoned member of The Straw Hat Players, Dean marks his seventh summer this year. Dean has served as Assistant to the Technical Director for several productions, and designed the set for last summer's *The Mousetrap* and lights for *Voice of the Prairie*. He has also designed sets and lights for several productions during his career as a Technical Theatre major at MSU. Dean designs the set for this summer's production of *Beau Jest*.



**Robyn Wick, Crookston, Minnesota.** Robyn, who was a junior at MSU this year, is in her third year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in *Godspell*, and during the academic year she has been in *Assassins*, *As You Like It*, *Dames at Sea*, *Chicago* and *Tom Sawyer*, to name a few. Robyn is a Theatre Arts and Music major and Dance minor, and she hopes to be a professional working actress, preferably in musical theatre.



**Lisa Witthuhn, Hudson, Wisconsin.** Lisa, a sophomore Theatre Arts major and Music and Dance minor at MSU next fall, is working with The Straw Hat Players for the first time. This past year she played Kalissa in MSU's *Aladdin*, Maggie in *Overtures*, and was the Stage Manager/Assistant Director for *Assassins*. She has also been a member of Skitsos, an issue-related acting company that tours Minnesota and Wisconsin. Lisa hopes to make a living performing in the arts.





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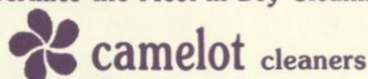
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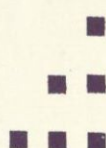
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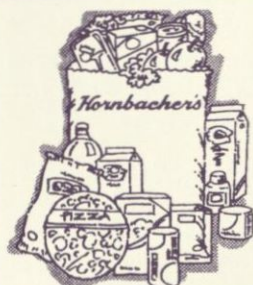
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# 1996 Straw Hat Players Company



**Joy Arthur, Mounds View, Minnesota.** Joy joins The Straw Hat Players this year for the first time, and she will be a Theatre Arts student at MSU in the fall. She hopes to work as an actress in stage, film or television someday, and she also has training in sign language, voice and movement. Joy has appeared in productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Elaine), and *Grease* (Marty).



**Susan Beaver, Wilmot, South Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU, Susan played Adora in *Aladdin* this year. Last summer, as a Straw Hat apprentice, she was in the cast of *Godspell*. Susan had the honor of being chosen Best Scene Partner at the Irene Ryan competition this winter, and she represented the eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. As a career goal, Susan hopes to consistently work in the theatre.



**Abraham Bobst, Sebeka, Minnesota.** This is Abe's first summer with The Straw Hat Players. He was active in high school theatre, playing Leon in Neil Simon's *Fools*, and also here at MSU as a freshman Theatre Arts major, where he appeared in this fall's production of *As You Like It*. When he finishes school, Abe wants to become a professional actor or theatre critic.



**Wendy Bonach, Eveleth, Minnesota.** Wendy is studying with the Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program at MSU and is spending her first summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has previously played the roles of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. She plans to teach at the high school level and work in local and community theatres.



**Sara Marie Briggs, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Sara just completed her third year with MSU's Speech Communication/Theatre Arts & English teaching program. This is also her third summer as a member of The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in the cast of *Godspell* and was Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap*, and in MSU's academic theatre she has played Ruby in *Dames at Sea*, among other roles.



**Jeff Brown, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.** Jeff is spending his second summer with Straw Hat and is entering his final year in the Technical Theatre program at MSU. He has plans to serve as Technical Director for a community theatre, and he would like to travel with a touring theatre production. During the academic year, Jeff was the Lighting Designer for *As You Like It*, Assistant Technical Director for *Aladdin* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Technical Director for *Assassins*.



**Bret Christensen, Casper, Wyoming.** As a student at Central Wyoming College, Brett has played Gary in *I Hate Hamlet*, Jamie in *My Fair Lady*, and Dallas in *The Outsiders*. He also has technical experience and plans to work as a professional stage actor, technician, or high school teacher. This is Brett's first season with The Straw Hat Players.



**Ryan Clemens, Lyman, Wyoming.** Ryan is a student at Central Wyoming College, where he played John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, Charlie in *The Foreigner*, and Eddie in *Fool for Love*. This is his first year participating with The Straw Hat Players. Ryan also has training in voice and stage movement. His ambition is to organize and operate a western touring theatre.



**Genny Dahl-Butler, Owatonna, Minnesota.** Genny was a freshman at MSU this year, studying Theatre Arts and Dance. She has extensive dance and voice training, as well as experience with choreography. This is her first time working with Straw Hat. Genny has had roles with the Little Theatre of Owatonna, as Thunder in *Pippie Longstocking* and Mary Emma Louise Jo Beth Smith in *Circle Me Fantasy*.



**Stephen P. Dolan, Grafton, North Dakota.** As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Steve played John Hinckley in *Assassins*, Mr. Gibbs in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and William in *As You Like It*. This is his third summer with Straw Hat, where he was seen in *They're Playing Our Song* and *Peter Pan*. Steve's modest wish is to be a working actor.



**Margaret Ann Eilertson, Britt, Minnesota.** Margaret was a junior at MSU this year and is here for her second Straw Hat season. Last summer she played Sonia Walsk in *They're Playing Our Song*, and during her academic career at MSU her roles have included Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme in *Assassins* and Celia in *As You Like It*. Margaret received an American College Theatre Festival nomination for her portrayal of Celia. She is majoring in Theatre Arts and Public Relations, through which she hopes to be able to support herself performing live theatre.



**Shane Flanagan, Fargo, North Dakota.** A student at Ouachita Baptist University, Shane is with The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. He has previously appeared as Noah Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Bellomy in *The Fantasticks* and Eddie in *The Open Meeting*. Shane also juggles and has vocal and dance training. He would like to continue acting as a profession, whether on stage or in film or television.



**Tania Fritz, Cooperstown, North Dakota.** Tania, a four-year veteran of The Straw Hat Players, is entering her senior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Straw Hat audiences may remember her as Sharon Lake in *Play It Again, Sam* last summer, and on the MSU stage as Audrey in *As You Like It*, Pinocchio in *Commedia Pinocchio*, and the Housewife in *Working*. After graduating with an acting and directing emphasis, Tania plans to attend graduate school and hopes to work as a university professor, teaching and directing theatre.





**Jason Gustine, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Jason hopes someday to "get paid to act." In the meantime, he is preparing himself by studying Theatre Arts at MSU. This is Jason's first year with The Straw Hat Players. At MSU, he has been seen in *Assassins* (Sam Byck), *Aladdin* (Genie of the Lamp), *Rossum's Universal Robots* (Radius) and *Date with a Stranger* (Clark).



**Ryan Jon Halliday, Grafton, North Dakota.** Ryan returns to The Straw Hat Players company after participating in last summer's apprenticeship program, where he sang as part of the cast of *Godspell*. As a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, Ryan had roles as the Sultan in *Aladdin* and the Balladeer in *Assassins*. Ryan is pursuing an acting degree with a dance minor.



**Ryan Newton Harris, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.** Ryan joins us for his second year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer, his roles included David Quinn in *Voice of the Prairie* and Judas in *Godspell*. His academic performances at MSU have included Charles Guiteau in *Assassins*, Teddy Roosevelt in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Jaques in *As You Like It*. Ryan graduates this year with a degree in Theatre Arts, and plans to use his skills in performance, directing, and writing (critical and fiction) to work in the entertainment industry.



**Matthew A. Kari, Osage, Minnesota.** 1996 is Matt's third summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer he designed the set for *Voice of the Prairie*. During his academic work at MSU, he has designed the set and lights for *Bent*. Matt has also served as Properties Chair for a number of productions, including MSU's *Chicago* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. This summer Matt designs the set for *Tartuffe*. He will graduate with a Technical Theatre degree next year and will use his training to work professionally as a set designer.



**Bryan King, Mankato, Minnesota.** Last summer, in his second year with Straw Hat, Bryan was seen in *Voice of the Prairie* and as Giles Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, he has played Lee Harvey Oswald in *Assassins*, Max in *Bent* and Sylvius in *As You Like It*. Bryan just graduated with a degree in Theatre Arts, and he will pursue a career acting and working in many other aspects of the theatre business.



**Michael Klug, Lead, South Dakota.** This is Michael's first summer acting with Straw Hat, although he has been very active on stage during his study of acting and directing at MSU. Michael's many roles have included Jonathan Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Horst in *Bent*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*, and the Captain in *Dames at Sea*. For his performance in *As You Like It*, he was nominated to the Irene Ryan competition for the American College Theatre Festival. Michael was MSU's first-ever regional acting winner at the ACTF contest, and he represented our eight-state region at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC this April. Michael graduates with his Theatre Arts degree at the end of the summer, and he hopes to work as a professional actor in theatre and film.





**Rachelle Larson, Fargo, North Dakota.** Rachelle is one of our Straw Hat Players apprentices this summer and will be a senior at Fargo South High School this fall. Rachelle has had extensive vocal and instrumental music training, and she has had roles in several plays, including *The Curious Savage* (Mrs. Savage), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Berthe), and *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae). Her plans for the future include work with theatre, music and education.



**Kellie Marie Loudon, Lisbon, North Dakota.** Kellie, who will be a freshman in MSU's Theatre Arts program this fall, is spending her first Straw Hat summer in the apprenticeship program. She has participated in other summer theatre programs, with roles in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *I Remember Mama* and *The Robber Bridegroom*. Kellie has several years of instrumental, vocal and dance training, and she plans to pursue a career in the musical theatre.



**Brian Mallgrave, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.** Brian is a Theatre major at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he has appeared as Wallace in *Women and Wallace*, Emcee in *Cabaret*, and Billy Bibbit in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. This is his first year with The Straw Hat Players. Brian would like to develop a career in theatre as a professional actor and scenic designer.



**Patrick D. Meehan, St. Cloud, Minnesota.** Last year was Patrick's first summer with The Straw Hat Players company, when he played Mr. Paravicini in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, while studying performance and directing, he was seen as Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* and the Sultan in *Aladdin*. After graduation next year, Patrick plans to move to Los Angeles to work in film or television.

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**Laura J. Barger\*** (Polly) comes to Moorhead after spending over a year with the Broadway National Touring Company of *Grease!* starring Sally Struthers and Adrian Zmed. While with the company, she performed the roles of Sandy, Rizzo, Frenchy, Marty, Cha Cha and Patty Simcox. Other national tours include *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Pippin*. Regionally, Laura has performed the roles of Cassie and Maggie in *A Chorus Line*, Milly in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, Nancy Ralansky in *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* and Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!* As a Jazz Vocalist she worked with the Manhattan Transfer and The New York Voices

as well as touring with Janis Siegel. Laura also performed at the Lincoln Center in NYC with Tommy Tune and Anne Reinking in *A Demand Performance* where two million dollars was raised to help the fight against AIDS. When not on stage, Laura is busy preparing for her most important role of all, as wife to fiance James Allen Baker.



**James Allen Baker\*** (Bobby) joins us after appearing with Leslie Uggams in The Paper Mill Playhouse revival of *Call Me Madam*. For the past two years, New York audiences have delighted in his performance at Radio City Music Hall in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. Other New York credits include work with the Manhattan Theater Club and *A Demand Performance* at Lincoln Center with Tommy Tune and Anne Reinking. Aside from the New York stage, James has toured nationally starring as Albert Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie*, the Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Lewis in *Pippin*. Regionally he has performed at the

Goodspeed Opera House in *Kiss Me Kate*, North Shore Music Theatre in *On The Town*, The Sacramento Civic Light Opera in *West Side Story* and the North Carolina Theatre in *Peter Pan* (with Terrence Mann). James made his national television debut with Liza Minelli on the 1993 Tony Awards, dancing in celebration of Broadway's 100th Anniversary. Other television credits include appearances on the daytime dramas "The Guiding Light," and "As the World Turns." James is looking forward to his next role as husband (in real life) where he will be playing opposite his fiance Laura J. Barger.



**Dawn Bye-Gunderson** (Assistant Choreographer) A 1988 Speech Communications/Theatre Arts and English teaching graduate of MSU, Dawn returns to the stage in her first Straw Hat performance as Susie. You may also recognize Dawn from local print and television ads. Prior to attending college, she received theatrical training at Trollwood Performing Arts School and was a dancer in the Red River Dance and Performing Company. When this show closes, she'll complete the final few credits of her masters degree in Liberal Arts at MSU. Dawn currently teaches English and Theatre Arts at Moorhead Junior High as well as directs the school

plays. Last summer she directed and choreographed Trollwood's Next Generation smash-hit musical *Chocolate!* Appearing on MSU's stage again, singing and dancing, is really a great thrill for Dawn.

\*member of Actors' Equity Association



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**Roray Hedges**, *Production Manager/Set Designer/Lighting Designer*  
**Kristin Huber, Rob Rachow, Dean Tschider**, *Technical Directors*  
**Peter Vandervort**, *Costume Designer*  
**Bonnie Lee**, *Costume Assistant*  
**Kristin Huber**, *Associate Lighting Designer*  
**Dean Tschider**, *Stage Manager*

## Cast

Polly Baker .....	Laura J. Barger
Bobby Child .....	James Allen Baker
Bela Zangler .....	Michael Klug
Lank Hawkins .....	Jason Gustine
Everett Baker .....	Robb Rossi
Irene Roth .....	Margaret Ann Eilertson
Eugene Fodor .....	Joe Papke
Patricia Fodor .....	Beatrice Gay Streitz
Mother (Mrs. Lottie Child) .....	Sarah Ross
Perkins .....	Patrick D. Meehan
Chauffeur .....	Dawn Merkel

## Follies Girls

Tess .....	Robyn Wick
Patsy .....	Genny Dahl-Butler
Mitzi .....	Lisa Witthuhn
Elaine .....	Sara Marie Briggs
Louise .....	Susan Beaver
Susie .....	Dawn Bye-Gunderson
Chaperone .....	Keli Schimelpfenig
Costumer .....	Joy Arthur
Costumer's Assistant .....	Kellie Marie Loudon

## Cowboys

Custus .....	Patrick D. Meehan
Moose .....	Ryan Newton Harris
Mingo .....	Ryan Jon Halliday
Sam .....	Brian Mallgrave
Billy .....	Shane Flanagan
Wyatt .....	Stephen P. Dolan



## Musicians

Conductor .....	Andrew Froelich
Violin .....	Carl Holm
Violin .....	Jason Holm
Violin .....	Dezheng Ping
Cello .....	Eugenia Slezak
Bass .....	Robert J. Jones
Woodwind .....	Mark Watkins
Woodwind .....	Wayne Dorothy
Woodwind .....	Diane Townsend
Trumpet .....	Timothy Justus
Trumpet .....	Greg Mulheran
Horn .....	Karin Wakefield
Trombone .....	David Miller
Trombone .....	Tim Hagen
Guitar .....	Glenn Ginn
Keyboards .....	Pat Godon
Percussion .....	David Eyler

**There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.**

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# Scenes and Musical Numbers

## Act I

- Scene I:** Street in front of the Zangler Theatre  
*K-ra-zy for You* ..... Bobby  
*I Can't Be Bothered Now* ..... Bobby and the Girls
- Scene II:** Main Street Deadrock  
*Bidin' My Time* ..... Mingo, Moose and Sam  
*Things Are Looking Up* ..... Bobby
- Scene III:** Inside Lank's Saloon  
*Could You Use Me?* ..... Polly and Bobby
- Scene IV:** Main Street Deadrock  
*Shall We Dance?* ..... Polly and Bobby
- Scene V:** Stage of the Gaiety Theatre
- Scene VI:** Main Street Deadrock  
*Someone to Watch Over Me* ..... Polly
- Scene VII:** Stage of the Gaiety Theatre  
*Slap That Bass* ..... Bobby, Moose, Tess, Patsy and Company  
*Embraceable You* ..... Polly and Bobby
- Scene VIII:** Stage of the Gaiety Theatre  
*Tonight's the Night* ..... The Company
- Scene IX:** Main Street Deadrock  
*I Got Rhythm* ..... Polly and Company

## Act II

- Scene I:** Inside Lank's Saloon  
*The Real American Folk Song (Is a Rag)* ..... Mingo, Moose and Sam  
*What Causes That?* ..... Bobby and Bela
- Scene II:** Inside Lank's Saloon  
*Naughty Baby* ..... Irene, Lank and Boys
- Scene III:** Inside Lank's Saloon  
*Stiff Upper Lip* ..... Polly, Bobby, Eugene Patricia and Company  
*They Can't Take That Away from Me* ..... Bobby  
*But Not for Me* ..... Polly  
*But Not for Me (Reprise)* ..... Polly
- Scene IV:** Street in front of the Zangler Theatre  
*Nice Work If You Can Get It* ..... Bobby and Girls
- Scene V:** Main Street Deadrock  
*Bidin' My Time (French Reprise)* ..... Mingo, Moose and Sam  
*Things Are Looking Up (Reprise)* ..... Bobby  
*Finale* ..... The Company



**Dawn Merkel, Mobridge, South Dakota.** Dawn just finished her second year studying Theatre Arts at MSU and is participating in her first Straw Hat season. She was seen on stage this year as a Slave in *Aladdin* and as Officer Klein in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Dawn has also had training in puppetry, and she plans to use her skills in that area as well as performance and scenic construction to pursue studies in the theatre.



**Tara K. Moller, Minot, North Dakota.** This is Tara's first year as a member of The Straw Hat Players. She has been active in the MSU theatre, including roles as Emma Goldman in *Assassins*, Angelita in *Penguin Blues*, and the Millworker in *Working*. Tara has also served as Chair and assistant on the costume crews of several productions. She recently graduated from MSU's Theatre Arts program, and she plans to pursue acting professionally.



**Faye Olson, Currie, Minnesota.** Faye Olson joins The Straw Hat Players this summer before entering her senior year at Westbrook Walnut Grove High School this fall. She is spending her summer here in the Straw Hat apprenticeship program. Some of Faye's stage experience includes writing some of the script and lyrics for a production entitled *Voice from a Distant Planet* and acting in *Sound of Thunder*. She plans to enter a career as a stage performer, technician and cosmetologist.



**Joe Papke, New Brighton, Minnesota.** Joe was a freshman Theatre Arts major at MSU this year, and he is part of The Straw Hat Players company for the first time. This past academic year saw him as Aladdin in *Aladdin*, Officer O'Hara in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and as part of the casts of *As You Like It* and *Assassins*. Joe has also participated in the Minneapolis Playwrights Center Young Playwrights Conference.



**Robert E. Rachow, Grafton, North Dakota.** Rob hopes to "work a long career in the theatre," and he has already had a substantial beginning. This year marks his fourth year with The Straw Hat Players. He is also very active as a Technical Theatre student at MSU, where he has appeared on stage as well as serving this year as Co-Lighting Designer for *Aladdin*, Assistant Technical Director for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Associate Lighting Designer for *Assassins*.



**Sarah Ross, St. Joseph, Minnesota.** Sarah is a recent graduate of MSU, with a major in Theatre Arts and a minor in Mass Communications. She is spending her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she played Frankie in *Voice of the Prairie* and Mollie Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. On the MSU stage, she has played Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, and the Schoolteacher in *Working*, for which she won a nomination to this year's American College Theatre Festival competition.



**Robb Rossi, Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Last summer, as a first-year member of The Straw Hat Players, Robb was seen in the productions of *Play It Again, Sam*, in the role of Humphrey Bogart, and *The Mousetrap*, as Detective Trotter. As a senior MSU Theatre Arts major, he has performed in several roles, including Giuseppe Zangara in *Assassins*, Adam in *As You Like It* and Joe in *Working*. Robb plans to direct non-traditional theatre, and he enjoys improvisation and working with special effects makeup. He designed prosthetic makeup for the Monster in this year's *Arsenic and Old Lace*.





**Keli Jo Schimelpfenig, Spotsylvania, Virginia.** Keli joins us for her first year with The Straw Hat Players, after completing her first year as a Theatre Arts and Dance student at MSU. She has been seen in productions of *Assassins* (Housewife/Bystander) and *The Sound of Music* (Mother Abbess). She also has extensive vocal and instrumental training. Keli would like to teach high school theatre near her home state of Virginia.



**Lisa M. Semler, Coon Rapids, Minnesota.** In preparation for a career as a working stage actor, Lisa just completed her junior year as a Theatre Arts major at MSU. Her roles here have included Kalissa in *Aladdin* and Martha Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She has also served as Costume Chair for *Assassins* and was very involved in the student one-acts. This is Lisa's first year with The Straw Hat Players company.



**Beatrice Gay Streitz, Moorhead, Minnesota.** Beatrice, a Theatre Arts student at MSU, joins The Straw Hat Players for the first time. She has had extensive forensics and public speaking experience, including twenty years as the Schoolmarm/Hostess at Bonanzaville, USA. Her other performance credits include Fargo/Moorhead Community Theatre and Fargo/Moorhead Civic Opera. Beatrice is pursuing a career in teaching and community theatre.



**Kristin L. Swenson, Rochester, Minnesota.** Kristin is a senior Theatre Arts major at MSU and is here for her second summer with The Straw Hat Players. She has also spent several years working with a children's theatre and mime school. Kristin appeared in last summer's production of *Godspell*. After graduation from MSU, she plans to work toward an MFA in Theatre Arts.



**Dean Tschider, Moorhead, Minnesota.** As the most-seasoned member of The Straw Hat Players, Dean marks his seventh summer this year. Dean has served as Assistant to the Technical Director for several productions, and designed the set for last summer's *The Mousetrap* and lights for *Voice of the Prairie*. He has also designed sets and lights for several productions during his career as a Technical Theatre major at MSU. Dean designs the set for this summer's production of *Beau Jest*.



**Robyn Wick, Crookston, Minnesota.** Robyn, who was a junior at MSU this year, is in her third year with The Straw Hat Players. Last summer she was in *Godspell*, and during the academic year she has been in *Assassins*, *As You Like It*, *Dames at Sea*, *Chicago* and *Tom Sawyer*, to name a few. Robyn is a Theatre Arts and Music major and Dance minor, and she hopes to be a professional working actress, preferably in musical theatre.



**Lisa Witthuhn, Hudson, Wisconsin.** Lisa, a sophomore Theatre Arts major and Music and Dance minor at MSU next fall, is working with The Straw Hat Players for the first time. This past year she played Kalissa in MSU's *Aladdin*, Maggie in *Overtures*, and was the Stage Manager/Assistant Director for *Assassins*. She has also been a member of Skitsos, an issue-related acting company that tours Minnesota and Wisconsin. Lisa hopes to make a living performing in the arts.



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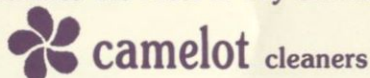
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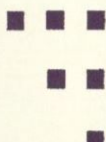
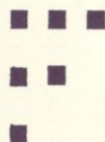
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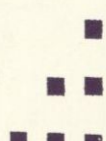
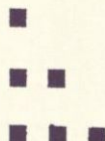
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